WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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June 14, 2006

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Kim Thorburn, Chair

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC FORUM DEBRIEF AND DISCUSSION OF FINAL EDITS TO STATE HEALTH REPORT**

Summary

RCW 43.20.050(b) requires the State Board of Health to produce a State Health Report "that outlines the health priorities of the ensuing biennium." RCW 43.20.050(a) requires, "At least every five years, the state board shall convene regional forums to gather citizen input on public health issues." The State Health Report must consider input from these forums. The Board held its final regional forum last night. The purpose of today's agenda item is to allow time for members to discuss the forum and to provide direction on the next round of edits to the report. The Board has agreed to transmit its final proposed report to the Governor by June 30. The Governor may approve, modify, or reject the report.

The Board has already approved a discussion draft of the report (attached). That draft was available for public review at the forums and on line. It was also circulated to partner agencies. Because the last forum occurred only last night, staff has not had time to draft specific changes for the Board's consideration. Based on the comments received, however, staff has proposed:

- Board staff will draft a conclusion, roughly two pages in length, that explains the forum process and characterizes the types of comments received. Summaries of the comments from the first two forums are attached.

- In response to a request by the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), a sidebar, roughly one page in length, about that department's health-related activities will be added. This will probably accompany the Board essay. Draft language submitted by WDVA is attached.

- In response to the number of concerns about mental health access and quality that were raised at the forums, a sidebar about the Mental Health Transformation Grant will be added. Placement of the sidebar will be discussed with the Governor's Executive Policy Office. In addition, staff will look for ways to mention mental health services explicitly in the Board essay, particularly in the access section.

- Staff will review all comments from the three forums and suggest changes I can make to the Board essay to reflect public concerns and suggestions. This would not dramatically increase the length of the essay or alter its basic tone and structure.

- In the course of reviewing the forum notes, staff may, in a very limited number of instances, suggest edits other agency heads might make to their essays and sidebars.

- The document will compile and condense the feedback received at the forums in an appendix of about two pages or three pages in length. The appendix will instruct readers on where they could go to review the full forum notes.

These changes would likely result in a document approximately 36 pages in length. We would design a cover for the version transmitted to the Governor. As a later step, staff would draft transmittal letters to agencies that would highlight relevant comments from the forums.

This Board will not meet again until after our deadline to transmit the proposed report to the Governor. I am therefore asking for a motion authorizing me to approve the final version for transmittal to the Governor. The final version would seek to incorporate direction provided by the Board during today's discussion, and electronic drafts would be circulated to Board members for review and comment.

Recommended Board Action

I am asking the Board to consider, modify as needed, and adopt the following motion:

> *The Board directs staff to develop a final proposed 2006 State Health Report in close consultation with the Chair. Revisions to the report should reflect the direction provided at today's meeting and members should have an opportunity to review the revisions. The Chair is authorized to approve a final proposed report for transmittal to the Governor by June 30, 2006.*